

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A scalable enterprise application collaboration system that enables the management of a plurality of reusable distributed objects running in a heterogeneous application environment, the scalable enterprise application collaboration system comprising:

a central host including a fault tolerant central registry system having a first central registry and a redundant central registry, wherein the central host is configured to manage the plurality of reusable distributed objects, send configuration change alerts to the plurality of reusable distributed objects, and provide configuration data to the plurality of distributed objects from one of the first central registry and the redundant central registry, wherein if the first central registry is unavailable, the redundant central registry is used;

the plurality of reusable distributed objects, wherein the plurality of reusable distributed objects are in communication with the central host to receive configuration change alerts and to download configuration data from the central host's fault tolerant central registry system; and

a plurality of heterogeneous applications, wherein the plurality of heterogeneous applications are configured to communicate via the plurality of reusable distributed objects in accordance with the configuration data.

2. A method of centrally managing distributed components and dynamically implementing configuration information related to the distributed components in a distributed enterprise application system, the method comprising:

storing in a first computer system a central registry database including configuration information related to distributed components wherein the distributed components are located in remote computer systems;

receiving requests from the distributed components for configuration information updates;

determining configuration changes to be implemented in response to the requests;

modifying the central registry database to reflect at least a portion of the configuration changes;

allocating the configuration changes to the corresponding distributed components; and

transferring the configuration changes to the corresponding distributed components wherein the configuration changes are implemented in the corresponding distributed components.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the configuration information includes, at least one of, load balancing, data mapping, data translation, routing, formatting, scheduling, collaborations, and message identification.

4. The method of Claim 2, wherein the configuration information includes, at least load balancing, data mapping, data translation, routing, formatting, scheduling, collaborations, and message identification.

5. The method of Claim 2, wherein the central registry database communicates with a plurality of subordinate registry databases, and the plurality of subordinate registry databases are in communication with the distributed components.

6. The method of Claim 2, wherein the configuration information includes data translation and messaging information.

7. The method of Claim 2, wherein the configuration information includes component and business logic connectivity information.

8. The method of Claim 2, wherein the central registry database communicates with a plurality of duplicate registry databases, wherein the plurality of duplicate registry databases are in communication with the distributed components.

9. A method of centrally managing distributed components and dynamically implementing configuration information related to the distributed components in a distributed enterprise application system, the method comprising:

storing in a first computer system a central registry database containing configuration information related to distributed components wherein the distributed components are located in remote computer systems;

receiving at the first computer system data translation and messaging configuration information from a configuration information input module wherein configuration information is accessed and modified by a user and sent to the first computer system;

determining configuration information changes to be implemented in response to the messaging and data configuration information;

modifying the central registry database to reflect at least a portion of the configuration changes;

5 allocating the configuration changes to corresponding distributed components located in remote computer systems; and

transferring the configuration changes to the corresponding distributed components wherein the configuration information changes are implemented in the corresponding distributed components.

10 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the configuration information includes, at least one of, load balancing, data mapping, data translation, routing, formatting, scheduling, collaborations, and message identification.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the configuration information includes, at least load balancing, data mapping, data translation, routing, formatting, scheduling, 15 collaborations, and message identification.

12. The method of Claim 9, wherein the configuration information includes data translation and messaging information.

13. The method of Claim 9, wherein the configuration information includes component and business logic connectivity information.

20 14. The method of Claim 9, wherein the central registry database communicates with a plurality of subordinate registry databases, wherein the plurality of subordinate registry databases are in communication with the distributed components.

25 15. The method of Claim 9, wherein the central registry database communicates with a plurality of duplicate registry databases, wherein the plurality of duplicate registry databases are in communication with the distributed components.

16. A method of centrally managing distributed components and dynamically implementing configuration information related to distributed components in a distributed enterprise application system, the method comprising:

30 storing in a first computer system a central registry database containing configuration information related to a first distributed component located in a

first computer system and a second distributed component located in a second computer system;

receiving requests from at least one of the first distributed component or the second distributed component configuration update requests;

5 determining configuration changes to be implemented in response to the requests;

modifying the central registry database to reflect at least a portion of the configuration changes;

10 allocating the configuration changes to at least one of the first distributed component or the second distributed component; and

transferring the configuration changes to at least one of the first distributed component or the second distributed component wherein the configuration changes are implemented on at least one of the first distributed component or the second distributed component.

15 17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the configuration information includes, at least one of, load balancing, data mapping, data translation, routing, formatting, scheduling, collaborations, and message identification.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein the configuration information includes, at least load balancing, data mapping, data translation, routing, formatting, 20 scheduling, collaborations, and message identification.

19. The method of Claim 16, wherein the configuration information includes data messaging and translation information.

20. The method of Claim 16, wherein the configuration information includes component and business logic connectivity information.

25 21. The method of Claim 16, wherein the central registry database communicates with first slave registry database and a second slave registry database, wherein the first slave registry database is in communication with the first distributed component and the second slave registry database is in communication with the second distributed component.

30 22. The method of Claim 16, wherein the central registry database communicates with a first redundant registry database and a second redundant registry

database, wherein the first redundant registry database is in communication with the first distributed component and the second redundant registry database is in communication with the second distributed component.

5 23. A distributed enterprise application integration system used to centrally manage distributed components and to permit dynamic implementation of configuration data to the distributed components, the distributed enterprise application system comprising:

10 a central control module stored in a first computer, the central control module including a central registry database used to store configuration data about a distributed enterprise application system, wherein the central control module is configured to process requests for component configuration updates, process changes for the central registry database, and forward component configuration data to a plurality of distributed components; and

15 a plurality of distributed components including corresponding component control modules, the plurality of distributed components stored on a plurality of computers, wherein the plurality of distributed components are configured to perform data related and messaging activities in compliance with component configuration data, and wherein the component control modules are configured to implement component configuration data and communicate with
20 the central control module to receive component configuration data, send requests for component configuration updates, and send changes to the central registry database.

25 24. The method of Claim 23, wherein the data related and messaging activities include, at least one of, load balancing, data mapping, data translation, routing, formatting, scheduling, collaborations, and message identification.

25 25. The method of Claim 23, wherein the data related and messaging activities include at least load balancing, data mapping, data translation, routing, formatting, scheduling, collaborations, and message identification.

30 26. The method of Claim 23, wherein the central registry database communicates with a plurality of subordinate registry databases, wherein the plurality of

subordinate registry databases are in communication with the plurality of distributed components.

27. The method of Claim 23, wherein the central registry database communicates with a plurality of redundant registry databases, and the plurality of redundant registry databases are in communication with the plurality of distributed components.

28. A distributed, multi-platform application integration system comprising:
a central host including a central registry system;
a plurality of application hosts including corresponding control brokers
wherein the control brokers are configured to communicate with the central registry system to receive configuration data; and

a plurality of multi-platform applications corresponding to the plurality of application hosts wherein the plurality of multi-platform applications are configured to communicate via the plurality of application hosts in accordance with the configuration data.

29. The distributed, multi-platform application integration system of Claim 28, further comprising a plurality of application connectors wherein the plurality of application connectors facilitate communication between the plurality of application hosts and the corresponding plurality of multi-platform applications.

30. The distributed, multi-platform application integration system of Claim 28, wherein the central registry system communicates with a plurality of subordinate registries, wherein the plurality of subordinate registries are in communication with the plurality of application hosts.

31. The distributed, multi-platform application integration system of Claim 28, wherein the central registry system communicates with a plurality of redundant registries, and the plurality of redundant registries are in communication with the plurality of application hosts.

32. The distributed, multi-platform application integration system of Claim 28, wherein the central registry system includes:

a central registry database that is configured to store configuration information about the plurality of application hosts; and

and a central registry service that is configured to communicate configuration updates to the plurality of application hosts.

33. The distributed, multi-platform application integration system of Claim 28, wherein the control broker includes:

- 5 a local registry database that is configured to store configuration information about at least one of the plurality of application hosts; and
- a monitoring module that is configured to monitor the application host.

34. The distributed, multi-platform application integration system of Claim 28, wherein the application hosts are configured to include, at least one of, load
10 balancing, data mapping, data translation, routing, formatting, scheduling, collaborations, and message identification.

35. The distributed, multi-platform application integration system of Claim 28, wherein the application hosts are configured to include, at least, load balancing, data
15 mapping, data translation, routing, formatting, scheduling, collaborations, and message identification.

36. The distributed, multi-platform application integration system of Claim 28, wherein at least one of the plurality of multi-platform applications is a supply chain management system.

37. The distributed, multi-platform application integration system of Claim 28, wherein at least one of the plurality of multi-platform applications is a customer
20 relationship management system.

38. The distributed, multi-platform application integration system of Claim 28, wherein at least one of the plurality of multi-platform applications is a enterprise resource planning system.

39. The distributed, multi-platform application integration system of Claim 28, wherein at least one of the plurality of multi-platform applications is a financial management and planning application.

40. A method for integrating distributed applications comprising:
 managing requests for configuration changes from at least a first source;
30 collecting configuration change information from a plurality of sources related to the requests for configuration changes; and

disseminating the configuration change information related to the requests for configuration changes to a plurality of distributed components servicing distributed applications wherein at least a first application is executed on a first operating system and a second application is executed on a second operating system wherein the first operating system and the second operating system are not the same operating system.

41. A method for integrating distributed applications comprising:

sending requests for data-related and messaging-related configuration changes from a first host to a central host;

receiving at the first host configuration change information from a central host related to the requests for configuration changes; and

implementing at the first host data translation and messaging configuration changes according to the configuration change information.

42. A method of integrating a plurality of multi-platform applications located on a distributed network comprising:

providing a plurality of integration modules corresponding to a plurality of multi-platform applications, wherein the plurality of integration modules perform data-related and messaging activities enabling communication among the plurality of multi-platform applications; and

providing a central host module, including a central database of configuration data, wherein the central host module manages and distributes configuration data to the plurality of integration modules, wherein the configuration data includes instructions for allowing communication among the plurality of multi-platform applications.

43. The method of Claim 42, wherein the central database of configuration data interacts with a plurality of subordinate databases of configuration information, wherein the plurality of subordinate databases of configuration information interface with the plurality of integration modules.

44. A method of implementing a distributed application communication system between a first independent application and a second independent application comprising:

creating a representation of a first set of data that is sent from a first independent application to a data translation module, translated into a second set of data, and forwarded to a second independent application;

converting the representation into sets of data translation and messaging instructions; and

distributing the sets of data translation and messaging instructions to a first data translation implementation module communicating with a first independent application and a second data translation implementation module communicating with a second independent application, wherein the first data translation implementation module communicates with the second data translation implementation module in accordance with the sets of data translation and messaging instructions.

45. A distributed application integration system, including a central host and a plurality of application hosts communicating with a plurality of multi-platform applications, the distributed application integration system comprising:

central host means for representing collective configuration information; and

central host means for allocating portions of the collective configuration information to a plurality of application hosts wherein the plurality of application hosts communicate with a plurality of corresponding multi-platform applications and the plurality of application hosts implement the portions of the collective information to enable communication among the plurality of corresponding multi-platform applications.